



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE FLIGHT TEST CENTER (AFMC)
EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

24 MAR 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL EDWARDS PERSONNEL

FROM: AFFTC/IT

SUBJECT: Policy on Standard Desktop Operating Systems (OS)

1. This policy defines the desktop OS migration plan for Edwards AFB. Our target standard desktop OS is Windows XP Professional with the minimum being Windows 2000.
2. Currently there are five desktop OSs deployed across the Center (Win 95, 98, NT, 2000 and XP). Multiple desktop OSs increase network vulnerabilities and increase the time required to implement security fixes. Further, the proliferation of numerous desktop OSs across the Center has increasingly strained our help desk resources to the point where help desk and support personnel are often unable to provide adequate support due to the inability to remain trained or proficient in each OS. At the same time, Microsoft has ceased to provide any support, to include security patch upgrades, for Windows 95 and Windows 98.
3. To minimize this problem, desktop systems with Windows 95 or 98 will not be supported on the AFFTC domain after 30 Apr 03 and will be removed from the network by this date. The IT Technical Refresh Program has identified these systems and has new computers to replace them by this deadline. To ensure timely compliance with this policy, all newly acquired desktops will be purchased with the target AFFTC desktop OS standard installed "Win XP Professional." Any desktops purchased with other operating systems will not be allowed a new connection to the network. Additionally, only authorized OSs (Windows 2000 or XP) may be installed on currently connected desktops. If special circumstances require a waiver to this policy, please contact IT Customer Service at 7-3444.
4. The standardization of desktop OSs is an industry best business practice. In the long-term, migrating towards a single standard desktop OS will reduce the help desk workload, improve the speed and effectiveness of security fixes, and allow us to provide better service to our customers.
5. Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to Capt Jim Palumbo, AFFTC/ITX at 7-7819.


SHELLEY D. CHRISTIAN, Colonel, USAF
Director, Information Technology